

Remarks

Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 10-31 are pending in the application. The Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10-12 and 20-30. Claims 13, 14, and 31 have been rejected and Claims 15 through 19 have been objected to.

In Paragraph 1 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner notes that Claims 7 and 8 have the incorrect claim identifier. In response, the Applicants have provided a listing of claims having a correct identifier for each claim.

In Paragraph 5, the Examiner has objected to Claim 14 based on an informality. The Examiner notes that Claim 14 contains a phrase which can be broadly interpreted such as its meaning is not enabled by the as filed disclosure. In response, the Examiner has modified Claim 14 to make it clear that the magnetic recording medium comprise a soft underlayer, an initial paramagnetic layer and a recording layer comprising alternating layers of Cobalt alloy and a noble metal.

In Paragraph 6, the Examiner has objected to Claims 15 through 19 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicates that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's notification that these claims would be allowable; however, the Applicants decline to modify these claims at the current time to place them in independent form. In response to the Examiner's objection, the Applicants have modified Claim 14 to place it in condition for allowance and respectfully submit that Claims 15-19, as being dependent upon Claim 14, would also be rendered patentable by the modification to Claim 14. However, the Applicants reserve the right to modify Claims 15-19 to place them in

independent form in the future should the Examiner disagree that Claim 14 has been rendered patentable by the modifications thereto.

In Paragraph 7, the Examiner has objected to Claim 31. Claim 31 has been cancelled.

In Paragraph 9, the Examiner has rejected Claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection essentially repeats the objection noted by the Examiner in paragraph 5 and has been addressed by the amendment to Claim 14 as described above.

In Paragraph 10, the Examiner has rejected Claims 13, 14, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,750,270 (Tang, et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,587,235 (Suzuki, et al.) and U.S. Patent 5,726,838 (Soeya, et al.). The Examiner states with respect to Claims 13 and 14 that Tang, et al. discloses all elements of Claims 13 and 14 except an initial Cobalt alloy paramagnetic layer between the soft magnetic layer and plurality of bilayers of Cobalt and a noble metal, but states that Suzuki, et al. teaches that is known in the art to provide a paramagnetic Cobalt alloy intermediate layer between two adjacent magnetic layers for the purpose of reducing noise. In response, Claim 13 has been cancelled and Claim 14 has been amended to include the novel elements of Claim 15, which the Examiner has indicated would be patentable if rewritten in independent form. Therefore, Claims 14 through 19 should now be patentable.

The Examiner has also rejected Claim 31 based on accommodation of Suzuki and Tang. The Applicants have cancelled Claim 31 as well.

In paragraph 11, the Examiner has rejected Claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,468,670 (Ikeda, et al.) in view of Suzuki and Soeya.

et al. In response, the Applicants have cancelled Claim 13 and, as discussed above, have included the limitations of Claim 15 within Claim 14, thereby rendering it patentably distinct from the cited prior art, namely, Ikeda and Suzuki.

Conclusion

The Applicants have cancelled currently pending Claims 13 and 31 and have modified Claim 14 to include limitations of Claim 15 which the Examiner has noted is patentable if rewritten in independent form. The Applicants believe the amendment to Claim 14 puts Claims 14 through 19 in condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of those claims in light of the amendments and the remarks above.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Applicants request that the Examiner contact the Applicants' attorney, listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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